

"A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."

~Henrik Ibsen

Open

Maintenance shop operating hours

The maintenance shops, except for Renton, are open Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Renton shop is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Intern hours

Kiley Thornton's winter schedule is:

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Note: Kiley's schedule will change in April.



Have you seen me?



This is a reminder that the safety kits are shared by all Adopt-A-Road groups. Therefore, it is important to return them as you found them. This means that all the reusable supplies, such as the vests, hats and **litter grabbers**, are returned with the kit.

Please double-check your route and vehicle after a cleanup to make sure that none of the supplies are left behind. Thank you for helping to keep this program running smoothly.

New groups August 2008 – December 2008

ADDA-GRCC, B.A.S.I.C., Benson Hill Cooperative Preschool, Black Diamond Bakery, Bruhn Family, Cub Scout Pack #564, DJES, Federal Way Youth Ecology, Friends of Lake Francis, Kentwood National Honor Society, Korean American Parents Association, Lake Alice Community Association, Mars Hill Church, McMicken Heights Baptist Church, Robin's Cleaning and Organizing, Seattle Paragliding Team, Team FASTT, Waldheim Acres Recreation Association, Wilson/Bishop Family, Windermere Real Estate – Woodinville
~ **WELCOME & THANK YOU!**

Composting made easy

Interested in composting, but not sure how? Follow these simple steps:

How to compost

1. Choose a location in your yard that is out of the way but within reach of the garden hose and not too far to haul the materials. A partly shady location is good.
2. Select a compost method, such as a covered compost bin or a brush pile.
3. Layer yard waste, mixing browns (twigs or dry leaves) with greens (grass clippings or vegetable garden waste), and moisten each layer.
4. Check the pile or container every week and keep it damp. Use a garden fork to mix and turn the pile occasionally. Yard waste breaks down in three to six months.
5. Harvest the compost by removing the earthy humus that has accumulated at the bottom. The compost can be screened or not, depending on your intended use. Use the remaining materials to begin the composting process again.

Compost equipment

Compost bin (optional)
Stiff-tined garden fork to turn and fluff the compost
Garden hose that will reach from the faucet to the compost pile
Compost thermometer (optional)
Yard waste, including leaves, grass clippings, vegetable garden waste, flower garden waste and twigs

To find out more about composting and ordering a compost bin, visit the King County Solid Waste Division website at www.your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste



The numbers are in, and...

Since August 1, 2008, **694** Adopt-A-Road volunteers completed **115** cleanups around King County. In 240 hours, you, our volunteers, collected **1109** bags of litter and 17 bags of recyclables. That is a lot of litter!

We also welcomed **20** new groups to the Adopt-A-Road program.

Congratulations to you on all of your hard work!



Spring's featured Adopt-A-Road group

Team FASTT

Team FASTT, which stands for Finish Strong Triathlon Team, joined the Adopt-A-Road family in August of 2008. They take care of NE 165th Street in Redmond.

On Make-A-Difference Day, 17 volunteers helped to collect 15 bags of trash, and they did it with a smile. This group knows how to have fun while working hard.

They are an enthusiastic group, and dedicated to making their community clean and beautiful.

Welcome Team FASTT, and thank you for your commitment to Adopt-A-Road.



Want your group to be featured online or in the next edition of "Litter-A-Ture"?

Just send in pictures via e-mail or snail mail! Please include a description of your group and a brief history of your efforts. In addition, be sure to submit a Photo/Video Release form for each person in your pictures. You can find this form on our website at www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kc-dot/Roads/Environment/AdoptARoad. Send your pictures to: Adopt-A-Road, Road Services Division, KSC-TR-0313, 201 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA, 98104, or email them to adopt.roads@kingcounty.gov.



Did you know...?

In Washington State, 22 million pounds of litter ends up in our environment every year? Only seven million of those pounds get picked up!

This litter is usually comprised of:

- 65 tons of cigarette butts
- 535 tons of automotive parts
- 884 tons of tires
- 1731 tons of wood debris
- 1173 of yard debris
- 250,000 lbs of plastic beverage containers
- 551,000 lbs of paper packaging & newspapers

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in America. Even worse - they are non-biodegradable. An estimated 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are littered worldwide every year.

They not only ruin the scenery, but cause numerous fires every year. The filters also contain a toxic residue that is harmful to human health and the environment.

The Department of Ecology spends \$4 million every year to clean up 25% or 1/4 of the litter. It looks like we have a long way to go!



For more information, visit: www.ci.richland.wa.us

"One person can make a difference and every person should try."

~ John F. Kennedy



The art of 'precycle'

Though recycling is a great way to reduce waste, and help the planet, you can do even more by precycling. **Precycling** is reducing waste ahead of time. You can do this by purchasing items that generate little to no waste. Here are 10 suggestions for you to precycle:

1. Bring reusable bags to the store with you.
2. Buy in large quantities, then store in smaller containers.
3. Buy products with the least amount of packaging or none at all.
4. Buy products packed in recycled packaging. (Important: make sure you look for the recycled symbol)
5. Don't buy disposable items such as plates, cups, pens, diapers and batteries.
6. Buy less paper towels and napkins or none at all. Instead try cloth rags.
7. Buy long life and concentrated items (batteries, bulks, etc.).
8. Don't purchase products that contain polystyrene, such as Styrofoam. Polystyrene is the most difficult material to break down in the landfill, and is considered a hazardous waste.
9. Buy items in cardboard, aluminum, steel, glass, and plastic containers marked with a one or two, because these items are more easily recycled.
10. Read labels for ingredients, and stay away from chemicals that harm our plant and animal life and/or poison our land.

Check out www.planetpals.com/precycle.html, for more information.

Litter-A-Ture

News from King County Adopt-A-Road
A program of the Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

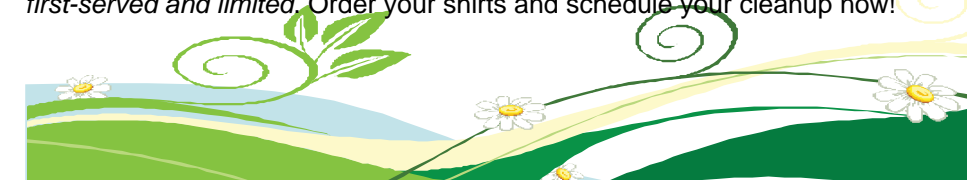
Spring 2009

Earth Day

It's that time of year to begin thinking about Earth Day!

King County Adopt-A-Road celebrates Earth Day during the entire month of April. This is a great time to get your group together for a cleanup, and help the environment.

To honor the day, we will provide a limited number of commemorative shirts for our volunteers who participate in Earth Day cleanups. Please use the form, located inside, to schedule your Earth Day cleanup, and order your shirts. Return it to Kiley Thornton by **Friday, March 6, 2009**. *Supplies are first-come, first-served and limited.* Order your shirts and schedule your cleanup now!



"The fate of the living planet is the most important issue facing mankind."

~ Gaylord Nelson



Earth Day
April 22, 2009

Schedule your April cleanup now!

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King County

Road Services Division
Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Road Program
KSC-TR-0317
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

How to use the orange Volunteers Working signs

The orange "Volunteer Crew Working" signs are essential to any cleanup your group performs along your county road. This sign alerts drivers to volunteers on the side of the road, and is easy to use. Here are some steps to facilitate your use of the sign:

- First, split your route into shorter segments, up to one mile in length.
- Place the sign facing oncoming traffic.
- Then drive your first vehicle a short distance away. Use this formula to figure out the spacing be:

10 x the posted speed limit (example: 25 miles-per-hour = 250 feet away from the orange sign).

- Put the rotating flashing light on this first vehicle. This is your buffer vehicle.
- After that, carpool with your group to end of the first segment, and clean the road, walking back toward the buffer vehicle.
- Finally, it is important to only work on one side of the road at a time, and walk facing oncoming traffic. This allows you to see drivers, and drivers to see you.

For more clarification, please refer to the diagram included inside this newsletter, or call Kiley Thornton at 206-296-3807. Happy cleaning!

Order your Earth Day shirts by March 6, 2009. Don't miss out!